

CONFIDENTIAL.]

REPORT

[No. 32 of 1878.]

ON

NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE

Week ending the 10th August 1878.

LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Number of copies issued.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.
BENGALI.				
<i>Monthly.</i>				
1	"Bhárat Shramajíví"	Baráhanagar	4,000	
2	"Rájsháhye Sambád"	Rájsháhye	.....
3	"Grámvártá Prakáshiká"	Comercolly	200	
4	"Arya Pratibhá"	Bhavánipore	.....
5	"Suhrid"	Calcutta	.....
<i>Bi-monthly.</i>				
6	"Culna Prakásh"	Culna	.....
7	"Hindu Lalaná"	Nawábgunge, Barrack-pore.	.....
8	"Sahayogí"	Bhawánipore, Calcutta	.....
<i>Weekly.</i>				
9	"Banga Hitaishi"	Bhavánipore, Calcutta	.....
10	"Bhárat Mihir"	Mymensingh	658	1st August 1878.
11	"Bhárat Sanskárik"	Harinábhi	.....	2nd ditto.
12	"Bengal Advertiser"	Ditto	.....
13	"Bishwa Dút"	Táliganj, Calcutta	.....	7th ditto.
14	"Bardwan Pracháriká"	Bardwan	165	
15	"Bardwan Sanjívaní"	Ditto	.....	6th ditto.
16	"Dacca Prakásh"	Dacca	400	4th ditto.
17	"Education Gazette"	Hooghly	1,168	2nd ditto.
18	"Grámvártá Prakáshiká"	Comercolly	200	7th ditto.
19	"Hindu Hitaishini"	Dacca	300	3rd ditto.
20	"Hindu Ranjiká"	Beauleah, Rajshahye	.....	1st ditto.
21	"Murshidábád Pratinidhi"	Berhampore	.....	2nd ditto.
22	"Pratikár"	Ditto	235	2nd ditto.
23	"Rangpore Dik Prakásh"	Kákiá, Rangpore	250	1st ditto.
24	"Sádharaní"	Chinsurah	516	4th ditto.
25	"Sahachara"	Calcutta	.....	5th ditto.
26	"Sambád Bháskar"	Ditto	.....
27	"Sulabha Samáchár"	Ditto	5,500	3rd ditto.
28	"Soma Prakásh"	Bhavánipore	700	5th ditto.
<i>Bi-weekly.</i>				
29	"Banga Mitra"	Calcutta	4,000	
<i>Daily.</i>				
30	"Sambád Prabhákar"	Calcutta	550	1st to 8th August 1878.
31	"Sambád Púrnachandrodaya"	Ditto	.....	2nd to 8th ditto.
32	"Samáchár Chandriká"	Ditto	625	31st July to 9th August 1878.
33	"Banga Vidyá Prakáshiká"	Ditto	.....	31st July to 2nd ditto.
34	"Arya Mihir"	Ditto	.....
ENGLISH AND BENGALI.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
35	"Howrah Hitakári"	Bethar, Howrah	300	21st & 28th July & 4th August 1878.
36	"Murshidábád Patriká"	Berhampore	.....	2nd August 1878.
37	"Barrisal Vártábáha"	Barrisal	300	
ENGLISH AND URDU.				
38	"Urdu Guide"	Calcutta	400	3rd ditto.
URDU.				
39	"Akhbár-ul-Akhiár"	Mazufferpore	.....
HINDI.				
40	"Behár Bandhu"	Bankipore, Patna	509	7th ditto.
41	"Bhárat Putra"	Calcutta	.....
PERSIAN.				
42	"Jám-Jahán-numá"	Ditto	250	2nd ditto.

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION.

HOWRAH HITAKARI,
July 21st, 1878.

1. The remarks made in this case by the *Howrah Hitakari* are similar to those already made by other native papers (noticed in the Weekly Report ending the 20th July), with the addition that fear prevents persons from exposing the misdeeds which they see powerful men committing, and that even when they would like to complain, the police and the courts are so far away in the *mafussal*, that no one is disposed to leave his work and journey a long distance to lodge a complaint.

HOWRAH HITAKARI,
July 28th, 1878.

2. Referring to the Order of the Garter conferred on Earl Beaconsfield, the *Howrah Hitakari* says, that it sees no objection to the conferring of an honour on Lord Beaconsfield's new honour. a person worthy of it; but when one not deserving of it gets it, it is a misappropriation of a great distinction. All the German and French papers agree in saying that Russia blinded England's representative, and that she has preserved almost the whole of the San Stefano treaty intact. Only a few English papers of the Premier's party praise him. We also say that Lord Beaconsfield was defeated in the Berlin Congress by the Russian Ambassador, and that the honour of England and her Queen has suffered through him.

HOWRAH HITAKARI.

3. Writing of the time when India was ruled by the Hindus and Muhammadans, the *Howrah Hitakari* remarks that when Muhammadan oppression became unbearable, the aid of the English was invoked, and although the rule of the East India Company was not based on scientific principles, or western ideas of civilization, yet it must be admitted that the country grew in prosperity day by day, and the people forgot the old yoke. They were not overborne by direct taxation. But nothing abides, and so the days of ease and comfort soon came to an end. The mutiny led to the withdrawal of the East India Company's administration, and to the assumption of the Government by the Queen, whose wish is that her subjects should not be oppressed. With this view she appoints learned and able officers to administer the country; but the increased expenses of the administration necessitate the constant levying of new taxes; and our rulers are multiplying these taxes without any regard to the state of the people. We are not prepared to say that attempts are not being made to reduce expenditure; but the affairs of India are to some extent controlled by the Secretary of State and his Council, who have their own views, and the result is that the people are burdened with taxes. The license and other taxes are unsuited to the habits of the people of this country. Our administrators should devise means to diminish expenditure, and thus reduce taxation. With drought, flood, an impending famine, and fresh taxation, how are the people to live.

RANGPORE DÍK
PEAKASH,
August 1st, 1878.

4. The *Rungpore-dík-Prakásha* writes that every one is already aware how oppressively the present taxes fall upon the people of Bengal, who, in these days of high prices for food, find it difficult to support their families. They are obliged to meet a number of taxes which the *chaukidárs* go round demanding from village to village, and if they fail to pay them, house and property are seized and sold. It is as much as the people in their present state can do to pay the Government revenue. The middle classes and the poor are scarcely able to exist; still they must pay the taxes, for Government will not forego its demands be there ever so much weeping and lamentation. We think it right to tell our rulers and the Government that taxes should be imposed according to the means and condition of the people. The mode in which the house-tax is now being collected is extremely unfair; the assessment of

a house being made at random, irrespective of the character of the material of which it is constructed. Officials seeking to act fairly might remedy this, and we therefore beg our Collector to make inquiries into the matter.

5. Referring to the opinions expressed by the Viceroy and the rulers of the several Presidencies on the subject of the native press as embodied in the Blue Book

The real feelings of our rulers towards us.

recently presented to Parliament, the *Sulabha Samáchara* remarks that one is rendered speechless on reading the opinions of each little lord (*chhotá lát*) ; but on turning to the views entertained by the Governor of Madras and some other Englishmen of high principle, one feels inclined to wipe the dust off their feet. Such anger against a few common native newspapers ! First, the Viceroy sent secret letters, asking the opinions of the Governors and Chief Commissioners. Mr. Eden entirely agrees with the Viceroy ; but the Hyderabad Chief Commissioner has given the most frank and independent opinion. He considers the English newspapers more guilty than the native organs, and does not think that the former should be exempted from the action of the new law. The Madras Governor and his Secretaries have spoken like true Englishmen. Some learned and high officials of Government said that, if an Act was to be passed, it should embrace natives and Englishmen alike. The Viceroy's Council, however, were not independent enough to advocate even such a view. For our part, we have as yet been unable to understand on what principle the English papers have been exempted. The Members of Parliament will be unable to keep from laughing when they see the opinion of the Advocate-General of Bombay recommending the prosecution of the Puna newspaper, the *Shivaji*, for a seditious article. The Government seeks to place the native newspapers under restraint, because (1) they intimidated with a view to extortion, and (2) because they stirred up hatred and distrust of the Government in the minds of its subjects. Well, let there be two cases tried before the High Court with a view to show which of the newspapers has been guilty in these two respects, and then let the Government make a law. But why such anger in the meanwhile ? It will consume the poor subjects. Had our rulers no other business to occupy them that they should sit with their feet on the necks of the poor ?

6. After mentioning some of the ways in which, and purposes for which, bribes are generally taken, the *Sulabha Samáchara* remarks, that bribe-taking might

be stopped in some measure, if officials refused to be deceived by the flattery of their *amlahs*, and were not afraid of them.

7. Referring to the scheme for the relief of the ryots of the Deccan, Mr. Cockerell's Bill for the relief of the ryots of the Deccan.

the *Dacca Prakásha* expresses its satisfaction at the attention paid by Government to the subject. Although the Government on this account deserves the good wishes of the people, the plan it is adopting is not deemed prudent or wise. It is not the improvement of the condition of the ryots that is aimed at, but only the means of preventing them from incurring debt. This will not only not prove beneficial, but must in particular cases be productive of ill ; for if the *máhájans* do not see any way of satisfying their greed, or recovering their debts, they will decline to advance money. What will the peasants do, then, who have no help for it but to contract debts ? And will not their state be a most deplorable one ? Some law should be made whereby the condition of the peasantry might be improved. The poverty of the Deccan ryots will not be removed by a law affecting only their debts.

8. In allusion to the unsuccessful result of the petition to Parliament, Result of the petitions to Parliament against Act IX.

SULABHA SAMÁCHARA,
August 3rd, 1878.

DACCA PRAKASH,
August 4th, 1878.

MURSHIDABAD PATRIKA,
August 2nd, 1878.

law passed by the Viceroy and Governor-General has been vetoed by the Secretary of State, who, in respect of the *Surat* riots, occasioned by the License Tax, regretted, before even the rioters had been tried, that "there were some few respectable persons amongst these *seditionist* people." He considers that the views and acts of the Indian Government are never mistaken. It was not during the time of the East India Company, but only when the Empress took over the country, that the principle was avowed that "the English Cabinet would not overrule the action of the Government of India for fear of lowering its power and prestige." During the *Musalmán* rule, abused by many, this principle was recognized. The petitioners will learn not to attempt another petition against anything which the Viceroy does, be it ever so injurious to the subjects of this country.

SADHABANI,
August 4th, 1878.

9. We are not aware of any other nation being so satisfied with the *Protest of the people against keeping laws of its foreign rulers as the people of India are with the laws and administration of the English Government.* Even in the jungles and in the villages the saying "this is the English rule, no force or oppression will do," is often used in disputes and quarrels. Our only wish is that our present rulers may be able to comprehend all things clearly; because by so doing we shall derive profit; and it is because we wish this that we are constantly endeavouring to correct the error of our rulers, and are finding fault with their methods and system of administration. At this some of our officials feel highly incensed, but this is not to be wondered at, and we shall not fret about it. Our only regret is that we have no one to act as mediator.

SOM PRAKASHA,
August 5th, 1878.

10. Referring to the report of the Sanitary Commissioner for the year 1877, wherein that officer speaks of the seasons in their relation to the prevalence of disease, the *Som Prakasha* remarks that, the impression in this country is that, the body remains well during winter and spring. Cholera appears sometimes during the winter season; but this is a disease the cause of which has not yet been ascertained, any more than the times of its appearance. Its outbreaks are occasional. Generally, people with long-standing complaints acquire strength and become hale and hearty by inhaling the air during the month of *Fâlgun* (February and March). Quoting next the remarks on the great insalubrity of *Dinâjpur* and its causes during the year 1877, the editor recommends a good system of drainage and some means for preventing forest *jungle* from overgrowing the villages, and says that a committee should be appointed to inquire into the matter. The Government, it must be observed, are not dilatory in appointing committees, though it is seldom that their recommendations are carried out; of this latter fact *Râjâ Digambar Mitra*'s report is an example. It is only being passed on from place to place, examined and re-examined, but no action is being taken on it. Again, the Sanitary Commissioner describes many of the Bengal peasantry as being in a half-dead state from sickness and the want of food; but we are very sorry to observe that Mr. Eden has not yet got rid of his misimpression. Seated in his pleasant dwelling on the Darjeeling hills, he sees with the eyes of a god the Bengali peasant in a wealthy and healthy condition. What he says about the idle man starving is quite true, for there is no doubt the price of labour has risen; but the price of goods has also advanced in like proportion; so that the labourer is in the same position now as before. The cheapness of Manchester cloths and of cloth umbrellas has enabled a few only of the well-to-do peasants (not the ordinary hard-working labourer though) to sport good apparel and umbrellas. From this Mr. Eden concludes that the peasants are not poor, and that *all* labourers are well off; but such is really not the case, especially as these labourers do not

find continual employment in all places. In conclusion, *Orissa* appears to show the lowest rate of mortality and Bengal the highest. This the Sanitary Commissioner attributes to the want of proper drainage in the latter province ; though, in our opinion, this is not the only cause. The want of good drinking water in our compact villages and their filthy condition may be set down as the other principal causes.

11. This paper, writing of the Press Act, says that, as the *Rámáyana* cannot be without a *Ráma*, so our surmises

The History of the Press Act.

turn out to be correct as to Mr. Eden's con-

nection with the Press Act. It was, indeed, at an evil moment that the Belvedere *Darbár* took place and people went there to share in its right regal favours. It was here that our fate was sealed, and here our woes commenced ! Readers ! The magnanimous Mr. Eden is the root and origin of this very pernicious Act IX. Did the Bengalis suppose that he whom they had regarded as the sandal-wood tree, and for whom they had cherished heart-felt attachment, would produce such poisonous fruit. How ignorant are men and how illusory their hopes ! How high were our hopes, how great our joy, when we heard that Mr. Eden had become our Lieutenant-Governor ; but so unfortunate are we that the moment we put the nectar to our lips it turned to poison. The Belvedere *Darbár* will, we believe, be long remembered in India. A new era, called the Eden Era, has commenced from this year. It was immediately after this *Darbár* that Mr. Eden wrote a letter to the Viceroy (this is quoted *in extenso*). His words were disregarded at the time ; but how do matters stand now ? Lord Salisbury's words became the foundation stone of Lord Lytton's high pillar of fame, and the famous Act IX was made to rest upon it. He wrote confidential letters soliciting the opinions of the various local Governments on the Native Press. The very celebrated Mr. Eden wrote his opinion in a moment ; the purport of it we leave our readers to guess for themselves. Many wrote against the press, whilst others, who had spirit in them, gave no opinion. The Governor of Madras testified to the loyalty of his people, said there was no necessity for the law, and moreover asserted it to be the duty of a civilized and enlightened Government to give its subjects an independent share in the administration of the country instead of stopping their mouths, &c. Lord Salisbury had his hands at the time full of the Russo-Turkish affair and telegraphed to gag the Press, as he was 10,000 miles off, and the rulers in India were saying that the country would slip out of their hands if the course recommended by them were not adopted. Thus the seed planted by Mr. Eden eventually bore fruit, the poisonous plant of Act IX was brought forth, and this is the history of the Act. From a perusal of the correspondence we have arrived at the conclusion that the *Sáhibs* will never be able to understand the minds of the people, since Mr. Eden, who knows the country so well and has mixed so much with the people, has committed so great an error. We cannot blame Lord Lytton, as he is but a new arrival in this country and knows nothing about it. He placed confidence in Mr. Eden. Like the clouds of autumn, trust in Mr. Eden for a time overshadowed the Viceroy's magnanimity, which, however, broke forth again like the moon in her brightness. Were it not for this, the principal Native newspapers would before this have been stopped by the efforts which Mr. Eden was making to that end. From the defeat of Mr. Gladstone's motion, we conclude that the English nation does not possess its former liberal and just ideas. Had there been any justice in our rulers, and if they had stopped native and English papers alike, we should not have felt vexed. The discontent of the natives arises from this partiality, and native editors are called acrimonious. We plainly tell Lord Lytton that no native wishes the expulsion of the English or the up-rooting of their rule ; we only get annoyed

SOM PRAKASH,
August 5th, 1878.

when we see the English committing acts of injustice, and our thin-skinned rulers conclude that native editors are seditious. Let our magnanimous Lord Lytton meditate, and he will see that the English Newspapers write in a harsher tone against the Government than the native press does. He has been told that the native press does great harm ; but this is not the case.

12. The *Sahachara* remarks that Sir George Couper, after a service

Sir George Couper's aversion to extending over 20 years, is like other civilians who wish to see the natives happy

and prosperous, but only within certain limits. 1st. He is not prepared to see a native enter the Civil Service to the detriment of the civilian body. 2nd. He will not concern himself with the proposal to substitute that which will advance the interest of the country for anything that a civilian has settled as proper. 3rd. He is adverse to the natives becoming happy in any way contrary to the wishes of high officials.

13. The *Sahachara* of the 5th August contains an article headed "A

Sir George Couper not a model model administrator," in which the Editor administrator. complains of the views of Sir George Couper

regarding the freedom of the Press in India and the education of natives. Sir George is opposed to both, and is described as but too willing to submit to the orders of his superiors in administrative measures. Thus, now, when a dire famine has been raging for months past in the North-Western Provinces, he has not considered it proper to remit the land revenue, in opposition to the views of Sir John Strachey. The result of this has been that five lakhs of people have died of starvation. It is a matter of gratification, however, that, with the exception of a few civilians of the old school, there are not many Englishmen who would like to see the natives of India steeped in ignorance. Sir George Couper is not a representative of the British nation, nor do we recognize him as a model Englishman.

14. The *Sahachara* makes the following observations on some extracts

The Press Act, which it has translated from the *Indian Daily News* on the Press Act. The native news-

papers have also said that, if the present law is insufficient, change it, but do not punish without a trial : for a subject of the British Government, and every man in fact, has a right to be tried and convicted before receiving sentence. Lord Northbrook, at the time when he refused to give his assent to Sir George Campbell's Municipal Bill, remarked that he could not trust the life and property of a subject to the discretion of a single individual, be that man ever so worthy and just ; but Lord Lytton's Government places the chief right which a man possesses at the mercy of officials, instead of in the hands of a Court of Justice, and it is not to be wondered at that Englishmen will object to such a thing. It is, moreover, gratifying to observe the English papers coming to understand that the continuance of the present Act will gradually undermine with their independence also. It therefore behoves us all to unite and procure the repeal of an Act so unnecessary, so unjust, and so opposed to the English character.

15. In giving an abstract of Mr. Knight's letter to Sir George Campbell,

Mr. Knight's letter. the *Samachara Chandriká* calls him an energetic, benevolent, and truth-telling man ; one

who recognizes no distinctions of caste or colour, and a man like whom there are very few now-a-days. He has said openly that this poor country is unable to bear the heavy strain created by the English administration. The English have not to this day understood, nor do we think they will understand, the system under which Native Princes carry on the affairs of their principalities ; the consequence is that they will continue in debt and be unable to get out of it. Our wish is that the English should reduce their

SAHACHARA,
August 5th, 1878.

SAHACHARA.

SAHACHARA.

*SAMACHAR
CHANDEIKA,*
August 5th, 1878.

expenditure, for we know not what becomes of the money collected from all sides in advance. Even the taxes with which we are burdened do not suffice. Mr. Knight makes a very valuable remark when he says that the English rule will not last long if the present system is persevered in.

16. In alluding to the bill recently introduced into the Viceroy's Council by Mr. Cockerell for the relief of the Deccan ryots, the *Bardwán Sanjivani* observes

The Deccan ryots.
that, notwithstanding the numerous difficulties and distresses by which the Bengal peasant is beset, he is still a thousand times better off than the people of the Deccan, whose present sad condition must be attributed to three principal causes: first, the poverty of the soil and the insalubrity of the climate; secondly, the scarcity of food owing to the vast increase of population; thirdly, the terrible oppression and tyranny of the *mahájans*, whose high rates of interest have quite crushed the helpless ryots. Above all this may be set down the excessive revenue demanded by the Government, as shown by the "Deccan Ryots' Commission," and virtually admitted by the fact of Mr. Cockerell's Bill. Government should not delay a moment in the matter. It should either enter into a definite and reasonable settlement with the ryots, which should be permanent, or it should take the revenue in kind in proportion to the extent of land under cultivation. The latter would be the better course, for then the ryot would be for ever free from the grasp of the *mahájan*. There is no doubt that the adoption of the above suggestions would in a great measure tend to the improvement of the ryot.

17. The *Bishwa Dúta*, referring to a letter of Mr. Knight recently published in the *Statesman*, wherein the condition of *Barodá*, under the able administration of Sir T. Mádhava Rao, was reviewed, observes that the time has not yet arrived for the British to leave the country, and their presence here will be necessary for many a year to come. The natives are not yet qualified to maintain independence. The increased dissatisfaction in this country must, we believe, be attributed to the great line of demarcation existing between Europeans and Natives.

BARDWÁN SANJIVANI,
August 6th, 1878.

EDUCATION.

18. Writing of Mr. Garrett's proposal that married lads should not be allowed to appear at the Entrance Examination, the *Bhárat Mihir* says that the *Mymensingh*

Child marriage.
Education Committee has given its assent to the scheme. The Editor regrets, however, for the sake of native society, that the *Bhárat Sanskárak* is the only paper that has agitated the subject; for agitation always tends to relax the stiffened joints of custom. A person seeking the reformation of society, who can be driven into despair at finding that his wishes have not been fulfilled in a day, knows nothing of social politics. East Bengal has risen in public estimation by the example set by the Dacca people in agitating this question of child marriage; but nothing is heard from Western Bengal on the subject. It was but proper that other districts should also have taken up the matter. The *Mymensingh* Education Committee assembled to discuss the matter, but there was no public meeting called for the purpose here. The *Farridpore* Education Committee supported Mr. Garrett's proposal, but no public meeting was held. If the question had been more generally agitated, men's minds would have received light. We do not consider those people capable of arguing, who say that it is beyond the scope of a University to frame rules as to child marriage; that it is impossible to carry such rules into practice; and that a University is not a social-reforming body, but an examining body. Such reasoning is but a protest against the *Shástras*,

BISHWA DÚTA,
August 7th, 1878.

BHÁRAT MIHIR,
August 1st, 1878.

for the University must be regarded as part and parcel of the Government, to which has been entrusted the education of the country.

SOM PRAKASH,
August 5th, 1878.

19. The *Som Prakasha*, referring to the minute of Sir Ashley Eden on inspection, published shortly after his coming into office, and to what appeared in the Gazette of

the 31st ultimo, says—Mr. Eden is prepared to carry out the new plan, which is in many respects doubtless good; but he has kept up the superintendence of both Director and Magistrate, which in our opinion is not right, as the latter should have nothing to do with education; because, in the first place, he has not the time for it; and in the next place there are Magistrates who do not care for the advancement of education. Assistant Inspectors are unnecessary: Deputy Inspectors should be appointed on higher salaries, who could assist the Inspectors. The Director's post is not required, for the present Inspectors are worthy men and capable, and they could carry on the work. The number of sub-deputies should be decreased, and that of the higher paid deputies increased, for under their supervision the schools would be really benefited. The sub-deputies do not understand how education must be advanced.

BARDWAN SANJIVANI,
August 6th, 1878.

20. A correspondent of this paper entreats the Magistrate of the Rániganj district to have an aided school established here, in consideration of Ichá-pore in Rániganj district.

Rániganj being a large place inhabited by about 1,500 people, of whom 500 are men of respectability. The village contains a *hát* and *páthsálá*, and is pleasantly situated. One hundred is the number of people here liable to pay the house-tax. The *zamindárs* do not concern themselves about the establishment of a school.

SAMACHÁRA
CHANDRIKA,
August 7th, 1878.

21. With reference to the recent resolution of the Lieutenant-Governor on the Education Department, the *Samáchára Chandriká* says that Sir George

Campbell, during his tenure of office, upset every department, and his successor, Sir Richard Temple, did not care to disturb the previous order of things; but Sir Ashley Eden has resolved on re-modelling the Education Department. We approve of the greater portion of his views, especially of that part of the resolution which takes away from the Magistrate the authority he had over the Education Department and makes it over to the Inspectors. The Magistrates had not the time to supervise educational matters properly.

SAMBÁD PRABHÁKARA,
August 8th, 1878.

22. The *Sambád Prabhákara*, referring to Sir Ashley Eden's recent resolution in connection with the Education Department, complains that everything in the

system of education, from the fixing of text-books to the appointment of Education Committees, &c., needs to be re-considered. In the first place the vernacular and primary education should be conducted on a uniform system; then there is frequent abuse in the selection of text-books; those written by the relatives or friends of Deputy Inspectors being preferred to the books of other authors, irrespective of merit. With the exception of the *páthsálás*, all schools intermediate between the purely vernacular and the purely English should be abolished, and the number of subjects required to be learnt by the candidates for the Vernacular Scholarship Examination should be reduced.

GRAMVÁRTA
PRAKASHIKÁ,
August 7th, 1878.

23. The *Grámvártá Prakáshiká* anticipates much benefit from the proposal of Mr. Garrett to prevent married youths from appearing at the Entrance Examination. The disability would, however, he thinks, be felt to be a

hardship by those poor lads whose marriage provides them with fathers-in-law able to meet the cost of education. A middle course has been suggested, viz. to permit married lads to go up for the examination, but not to allow them to hold scholarships. This plan would discourage child-marriages.

LOCAL.

24. The *Sámacára Chandriká* draws the attention of Government to information it has received about the outbreak of cholera in Entally, a suburb of Calcutta.

Cholera in Entally.
Four people died of it in one week in the house of one *Ishwar Chandra Pal*, and five persons are suffering with it. The want of good drinking water may be assigned as a cause.

SAMACÁRA
CHANDRIKA,
July 31st, 1878.

25. A correspondent, writing to the *Education Gazette* from *Goálundo*, State of *Goalundo* and the crops gives a sad description of the state of owing to the overflow of the *Padma*.

Goálundo owing to the overflow of the *Padma* river. Houses appear floating on the surface of the water; the seedlings have succumbed to the pressure of the water; the bazar is destroyed, one-half of it having gone into the river; most of the shop-keepers have deserted the place; the people are suffering seriously owing to being quite surrounded by the water, and many of the poor are without food.

EDUCATION GAZETTE,
August 2nd, 1878.

26. A correspondent writing to the *Rangpore Dik Prakásha* from *Kurígrám*, says that the water is rapidly

Floods in Kurígrám.
coming over the station road into the village, and if it does not abate within two or three days, life will be endangered. The price of rice is rising gradually; people cannot prepare it on account of the unceasing rain. If this absence of sunshine continues, it will be impossible to get rice at all: people have not as yet been able to cultivate the *hemanta* (or winter) crop. Famine is imminent.

RANGPORE DIK
PRAKASH,
August 1st, 1878.

27. The following are the accounts sent to the *Bhárat Mihir* from Accounts from correspondents of various places: The *Dhalanadi* in *Dinhata* rose on the night of the 20th idem and flooded all

BHÁRAT MIHIR,
August 1st, 1878.

the place. Paddy, rice, and other articles are very dear; ordinary *ashu* rice is selling at Rs. 4. From *Ishwarganj* the news of the establishment of a distillery is received, which has led to great intoxication; the place has also become very unhealthy on account of fever: only 12 or 14 pupils out of 50 being able to attend school. People are terrified at the rise of the water here. From *Kamarjani*, accounts come of rain and flood destroying houses, &c.; men are kept standing in two or two and-a-half cubits of water. Rice is at famine prices. The new *ashu* rice can with difficulty be had at Rs. 4-4 and 4-8. The *Khetupara* correspondent says that rice has been selling at very high rates in all the country round about this tract: many respectable families have to subsist on one meal a day, and, strange to relate, not a word is said about the scarcity of food. Jute is the chief cause of all the ruin. *Pingana* is flooded.

28. The *Hindu Hitaishini* notices that storms and rain have done much damage in the *Dacca*, *Faridpore*, *Backerganj* and *Mymensingh* districts. People know

HINDU HITAISHINI,
August 2nd, 1878.

Floods in East Bengal.
not where to find refuge for their families and domestic animals. The crops are under water, and the peasantry are getting to be hopeless of reaping the fruits of their labours. *Vikrampore* is almost entirely under water. What with the famine and the present floods, our readers can imagine our very deplorable state. The waters of the *Brahmaputra* have also risen very high; the vegetable gardens and newly planted trees in people's houses have been all destroyed by this rise of the waters. People are selling off their cattle and domestic animals through inability to keep them. *Backerganj* and *Faridpore*

are low places, but we have not as yet received particulars of the damage done there.

HINDU HITAISHINI.
August 3rd, 1878.

29. The *Hindu Hitaishini* publishes a long letter from a correspondent detailing the immense loss of property and of domestic animals and cattle in *Backerganj* and *Kálipárá* owing to the overflow of the river *Padma*, the latter place being the property of the *Hajras* and Baboo *Krishna Kishore*, who had made many improvements in it.

SULABHA SAMÁCHAR,
August 3rd, 1878.

30. The *Sulabha Samáchara* says that it has received two letters from correspondents at *Bálí*, to the effect that a police constable beat one of a party of men burning a corpse at a ghât with such severity as to endanger his life; the man was taken to the hospital where he lies. The Postmaster *Bábu* of the place, who tried to interfere, was arrested. The District Superintendent is entreated, if the story be true, to see that the constable gets his deserts.

EDUCATION GAZETTE,
Augus 2nd, 1878.

31. A correspondent, writing to the *Education Gazette*, draws the attention of the Magistrate and the Executive Engineer of Howrah to the want of proper communication by road to the famous *hát* (or fair) held bi-weekly at the village of *Pánchlá* in the thana of Jugadballabhpur, zillah Howrah, to which the inhabitants of 50 or 60 villages are in the habit of resorting. The drainage also requires to be attended to: the greatest inconvenience is felt during the rains. The distance from *Dauk* to the *Páchmá* *hát*, though only three miles, involves more trouble than having to travel ten elsewhere.

EDUCATION GAZETTE.

32. *Gaurángachandra Rái*, a correspondent writing to this paper, urges upon the Postmaster-General and the Inspector of Post Offices, the necessity of opening a post office at the village of *Ashtamnishá*, four miles from station *Chátmohar*, zillah *Pubna*. The post office box in this village is opened only twice a week, and if a letter has to be registered, two or three rivers have to be crossed before *Chátmohar* can be reached. The correspondent is willing to guarantee the postal authorities against any loss, and indeed for this purpose he is willing to make over his landed property as security.

BARDWAN SANJIVANI,
August 6th, 1878.

33. A correspondent writing to this paper from *Jahánábád* brings to the notice of the authorities the occurrence of a dacoity in the daytime under the very eyes of the police, who, it is further reported, not only refrained from interposing, but aided the marauders. The Inspector and Sub-Inspector were not at the time at the *thana*: had they been there, this would not have occurred. They should, however, punish the constable and head-constable who assisted the dacoits.

BISHWA DUT,
August 7th, 1878.

34. Accounts received by the *Bishwa Dúta* from *Rangpur* and *Rájshahye* describe the country as flooded and the cattle floating about; the peasants are in great distress on account of their houses being invaded by the water. The bridge has fallen in, and the postal communication is being kept up by means of boats. Continual rain has been falling in *Mékbálíganj*.

SOM PRAKASH,
August 5th, 1878.

35. *Shashi Bhushana Chatterji*, a correspondent writing to this paper from *Mahésh*, Serampore, under date the 1st August, makes some remarks about the new road running from the north-east of Bardwan through *Shonpur* and *Kurumun* to *Mantreshwar*, a distance of 18 miles; this road is of use to the people of those places, but not to the public generally. People coming to Bardwan from places 30 to 32 miles off, situated on the

banks of the *Bhágirathi*, have to cross the *Bara Bélun* plain, which it is difficult to do in the rains, seeing that within a distance of four miles there are three small streams and one large one to cross. The *Bardwan* Road Cess Committee are entreated on behalf of the public to construct another road starting from the road between *Bardwan* and *Man-treshwar*, over the *Panruya māt*, which shall run northward towards *Bara Bélun*; this will prove of great service to the inhabitants residing in the north-eastern parts.

36. The *Hindu Ranjiká* gives a dire account of the floods in North-Eastern Bengal. Inhabitants 80 years old

Flood and famine in North-Eastern Bengal, Rampore Bauleah, Chittagong, and Serajganj.

cannot remember such heavy rains. Owing to the rise of the *Brahmaputra* and the *Megna*

and their tributaries, the surrounding country has been flooded, and all hopes of the *ashu* crop in *Gowhatti*, *Goalpara*, *Chilmari*, *Alipur*, *Serpur*, *Jamalpur*, *Kagmari*, &c., have vanished. The water has reached the houses. Accounts from *Serájganj* are to the same effect, communication along the Municipal and Road Cess Fund Roads being carried on by means of boats. Much injury has been done to the jute and jute godowns of the *mahájans*. Cattle are tied in places where there are two cubits of water, and people sleep on elevated platforms. The *vakils* and *mukteárs* of the country are sending away their families. If the rain continues at this rate for two or four days more, the elevated lands of *Serájganj* will be flooded. The *aus* paddy, which had sprung up well, has been altogether destroyed by this rain, whilst it is reported that the *aman* paddy has been flooded in several places. Rice is everywhere selling at excessively high prices. If the *aus* crop had come up well, the price of rice would have fallen; but the state of the granary of North-Eastern Bengal, to which all look, is deplorable, and with the famine in the North-West and Madras, there is no hope of prices coming down. If this state of things continues a little longer, actual famine will be upon us, and the people will die of starvation. Where there used to be two meals a day, there is now only one. Government is entreated not to suffer its subjects to perish of famine.

37. The same paper states that thefts are on the increase owing to the Scarcity in the Hill Tracts of Chittagong. high price of food in *Rampore Bauleah*.

The scarcity in the Hill Tracts of Chittagong is reported to be so severe that rice is selling at six seers, and that there are no more than 25 maunds of rice in the whole bazar.

38. This paper has the following, relative to *Darbhanga*, in its local columns of news. Famine has overtaken

News relative to Darbhanga. several places and provinces simultaneously, so that Government will not be able to stay this calamity by importing rice into these places from Bengal. Complaints are everywhere heard of an insufficiency of food; the poor despair of their lives. Rice is not obtainable even at ten seers. How much longer shall we live?

39. The *Bhárat Mihir* says that its predictions as to impending famine were put down as the fears of an alarmist, but that they are being fulfilled.

State of Eastern Bengal. Starving people and weeping and lamentation are on all sides. The country between *Jalpiguri* and *Faridpur* is all under water; the *ashu* and *aman* crops have failed. Rice in *Mymensingh* is at Rs. 4-2 and Rs. 4-4, in *Kutch Bihár* at Rs. 5, in *Tangail* at Rs. 6, and at Rs. 7 in some places in *Pablidahar*. One meal a day is all that some people can get. The Dacca Commissioner does not see famine as yet in the state of the people, and therefore has refused to listen to the representations made by the Dacca Association on the subject; if he but chose to look carefully, he would be able to understand the distress of the people. We know not what measures are being adopted by the Deputy

HINDU RANJIKÁ,
July 31st, 1878.

HINDU RANJIKÁ.

SADHARANI,
August 4th, 1878.

BHÁRAT MIHIR,
August 1st, 1878.

Magistrate, *Bábu Brajakántá* of *Tangáil*, and Mr. Donough of *Jamálpore* for the alleviation of the famine in those places; but Government should not remain listless, for there seems to be no other remedy save to import grain at once. We would not have asked Government to interfere were the people not in great distress. Let rice first of all be sent to those places where that commodity is selling at Rs. 6 and Rs. 7, so as to reduce the market prices. It will not do for Mr. Pawsey, the local Magistrate, to remain quiet now. Government officials are afflicted with the malady of refusing to acknowledge a famine, though they see it staring them in the face; they seem terrified at the very word; they fear having to submit to a grave responsibility. We do not say that this plan will be followed in Bengal, though we have called to mind the above from the history of the famines in the North-West, *Orissa* and *Behár*. We hope the Bengal Government will make particular enquiries into the state of the *Mafussal*. The present condition of East Bengal will not long continue. The prevailing prices which in other places betoken famine are not what the peasants of Bengal consider famine prices; but rice has now risen fearfully high, and in some places it is reported as not procurable.

FAMINE.

DACCA PRÁKASH,
August 4th, 1878.

40. The *Dacca Prákash* says that the inundations in Eastern Bengal are causing much distress to men and cattle, owing to the floods. The paddy has gone under water in several places, and in other places the crops have been destroyed by the heavy rain. Great are the cries of the people on account of the rise in the price of grain. Accounts from the following places are given:—From *Mymensingh*: Floods, such as the present, have not been seen for the past 50 or 60 years. *Jamalpur*, *Sirpur*, *Pingana*, *Kagmari*, *Atia*, &c., are in several places submerged, and much loss has been occasioned thereby to the district. Famine may be said to have commenced. Advices from an authentic source state that rice is selling at Rs. 6 and Rs. 7 in Western *Mymensingh*, and in the city it is at Rs. 4 and Rs. 4-2. All other articles too are dear. From *Goálando* the news is that many fields have gone under water by reason of the great rise of the river. The post office, the school, the Magistrate's cutcherry, and the amlahs' residences are beginning to be flooded. From *Kuch Bihár* the report is that the adjacent villages and a great part of the town are covered with water; *Mainaguri*, &c., where respectable people live, is in a sad state. People are saving their lives by getting to the roofs of their houses. About three-fourths of the cattle have been destroyed. Government relief is being given to the distressed. The crops have greatly suffered through about a month's constant rain. Coarse rice is selling at Rs. 5 and Rs. 6. From *Vikrámpur* the report is that famine and rain are causing much injury to men and cattle; fields are being destroyed by the water; people are supporting themselves by begging, and the price of grain is rising. Correspondents from *Comillah*, *Jamalpore*, *Balia/i*, *Mamudpur*, *Munshiganj*, *Manikganj*, *Atia*, *Jalpiguri*, &c., are soliciting relief. Verily, Government should come to their relief when people have been living from hand to mouth so long on account of the high prices of food. We beg of Government officials not to judge by the outward appearance of places, and thence conclude that the time to grant relief has not yet come; but let them enquire into the state of the many respectable families that are starving on small incomes.

HOWRAH HITAKARI,
August 4th, 1878.

41. A correspondent, writing to the *Howrah Hitakari* from *Krishnágár*, State of the Nuddea district and the arrival of a gang of *Bédás* there. under date the 17th July, says that the Nuddea district has been visited by a small famine; the coarse *Rarhi* rice selling there at Rs. 3-12 and Rs. 4; the poor people

can scarcely get enough to eat. Beggars infest the place and labourers are difficult to be got. There has been no good rain as yet, and the prospects of the *ashu* crop are not good. In every house some one is laid up with fever. A gang of *Bédás* has made their appearance, and thefts have increased. These people steal in daylight, and Mr. Monro tried, but has failed, to catch them.

42. The *Bardwan Sanjivani* says that, during the last fortnight, there has been rain in the district, and cultivation has commenced. In other places there has

been no rain, and here nothing will be had this year. In consequence of the peasants having been employed in fields where no rain has fallen, imports have been impeded, and grain which was selling in the town at 14 and 15 seers, has for the past fortnight been standing at 12 and 13 seers. Beggars are increasing.

43. From *Pánchtopi* accounts come of the dearness of grain. Rice is at 6 seers, owing entirely to the villainy of the weighmen, and the price is rising daily. Cattle disease is prevalent, and cattle are dying just at the time when they are wanted for purposes of cultivation. The floods have not been very bad; almost all the lands on the banks of the river have been cultivated. From Jehanabad news comes that $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches of rain have fallen there, making up in one day the deficiency of three months.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,

The 10th August 1878.

ROBERT ROBINSON,

Offg. Government Bengali Translator.

BARDWAN SANJIVANI,
August 6th, 1878.

State of the Bardwan district.

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